

# GENERIC DATA PROCESSING ENGINE

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A generic data processing engine is operable to receive a format definition  
and process data formatted according to the definition, without use of formatting  
information in the data. The format definition includes a description of the syntax  
of the format, and a description of the semantics of the format. The syntax and  
semantics may be described in the same language or in different languages, and  
the engine is configured to produce an internal representation of the syntax and  
semantics. The engine receives queries and uses them together with the internal  
10 representation to set masks for the filters. The filters apply the masks to the data  
and return filtered data to the engine, which may forward a portion of the filtered  
data to applications, store a portion of the filtered data, set new masks based on a  
portion of the filtered data, or modify the existing masks based on a portion of the  
filtered data. The filters may also be configured to return filtered data directly to  
15 applications, bypassing the engine.